



**Grant Number: 20171726**

**Summary and Impact Report**

**By: Nina Corder**

Educational Initiatives for Women Economic Empowerment Program

Supported by Winalee Blue Fund -September 2017 to April 2018

**Chairperson and Program Director:** Nina Corder

**Facilitators and Task Force Team:** Audrey Johnson, Brandi Walerius, Autumn Gineen, Kristie Knighten, Kristina ElSayed and Deb Rayford.

**Overview: Goals & Activities**

From early October 2017 to the end of April 2018 with funding from the Winalee Blue Fund from the Toledo Community Foundation, our organization was able to offer a Women Economic Empowerment series under our Educational Initiatives program. Under this initiatives program, we successfully served 481 women and young women participants by offering six different sessions of workshops, power hour series and dialogue sessions (duplication on individuals for participation may occur). From the survey, we successfully served a very diverse group of the female population with various ethnicity backgrounds, ages, counties and professions.

**Advocacy Series – Two Forums**

We organized two advocacy forums; the first forum was a Women's Intersectional-Intercultural panel discussion and the second forum was International Women's Day, #PressforProgress.

In Fall 2017, the Intersectional-Intercultural panel successfully helped create awareness and advocated for common values, such as commitment to solidarity, social justice and stronger cohesion and a stronger voice for the community. In this panel forum, we featured four women and 2 families from various traditions and ethnicity highlighting their inspiration and challenges as they continued creating strong family bonds. Our moderator and panelists successfully engaged the audience on how mixed, interracial or blended families live together, not just to co-exist.

In Spring 2018, we were joined by 90 women in the community for an organized panel dialogue on #PressforProgress surrounding discussions on how we can strengthen Women Economic Empowerment and gender parity in Greater Toledo in conjunction with International Women's Day. Below are the results of the attendees and their commitment to specifically concentrate on #press for progress for gender parity in their own sphere of influence:

- 9 women pledged to Forge Visibility of Women
- 22 women pledged to Challenge Stereotypes and Bias
- 29 women pledged to Celebrate Women's Achievements
- 15 women pledged for Positive Power
- 6 women pledged all four of the above #PressforProgress



### **Success Stories – Three sessions of Leadership Connection and Mentorship**

With support from our Women's Connection mentors and peer-network, we organized multiple sessions of leadership connections and mentoring programs during the period of October 2017 to February 2018 with support from the Winalee Fund. Each of our sessions offered our participants community-based knowledge and discussions centered on how women in Toledo can help support and empower each other, build strategic alliance partnerships, celebrate success and make true progress. At each session, we intentionally setup the room with at least 10 to 15 stations of tables for two. This ensured an opportunity for one to one connections with a newer concept focusing on quick-hit information, time-efficient networking and the methodical pursuit of a mentorship. During this period of time, we successfully connected 45 of our participants to 32 top women leaders in the community. Here are a couple of testimonials from participants:

*"I attended this session and left so empowered. Empowered to take risks. Empowered to embrace my authenticity. Empowered to tell my success story and become a leaders"- Latoya Morgan.*

*"What a wonderful group of women- so open to the experience of learning and growing their leadership skills. I love this energy and spirit of helpfulness by everyone" – Kelly Webb*

From our survey assessments, 72% enjoyed the connections and almost 60% of the participants agreed the sessions enhanced their skills, experience, knowledge, and networks to succeed while creating an opportunity to generate value in their lives, families and communities.

### **Educational Economic Empowerment - One Women Empowerment Summit**

Through collaboration initiated with Adelante, American Association University of Women (AAUW) and the University of Toledo Eberly Center for Women (ECW), we organized a half-day Women Empowerment Summit, *Unleashing Your Superpowers* in conjunction with Equal Pay Day on April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The Summit and its presenting partners served a diverse group of 231 women and young women aged 15 and up from the Greater Toledo area. The Summit's goals were to empower women economically and, through self-advocacy, teach participants how to soar by unleashing their own personal and professional superpowers. In addition, the Summit successfully created awareness and encouraged supporters on the Equal Pay Campaign here locally.

The Women Empowerment Summit offered participants the following educational series of:

- Two Panel Forums; Hero Story and Mothering While Working.
- Five breakout sessions covering the topics of Financial Literacy, Health & Wellness, Emotional Well-being, Advocacy and Self-care.



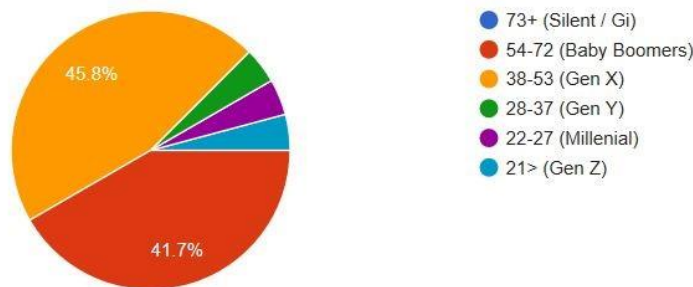
- Keynote Speaker, Diana Patton; Rise & Commit to Be Your Best Self.
- Engaging Table Topics Activity during lunch with 15 Women Leaders and Mentors.
- Closing performance by Toledo Jazz legend, Ramona Collins.

Below are the results of the survey assessments from the participants of the Summit.

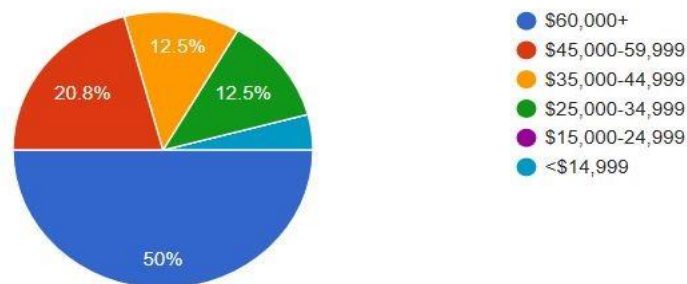
- 58.3 % attended the Summit program for personal growth & development, 33% for networking and program content.
- Quality and Impact: 58.3 % rated 5, 29.2% rated 4 and the rest rated 3 and below.
- 70.8% rated satisfaction on program content, logistics and venue of the Summit.
- Overall, 91.7% rated yes that the Summit fulfilled the participants' reasons for attending the Summit program.

Demographics of participants:

Age:

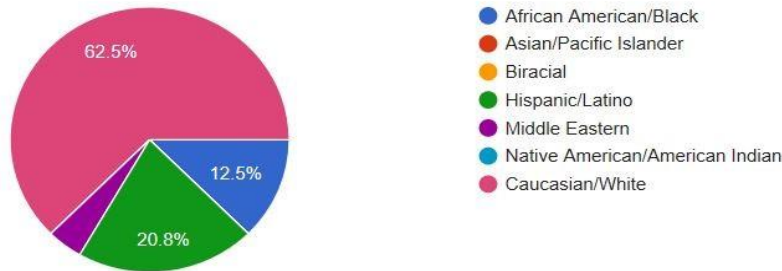


Household Income





## Ethnicity Origin or Race



## Challenges & Limitations

The grant did provide us with adequate fund to meet the mission and goals expectation for all the services proposed in the program proposal. However, it was not adequate to help fund our general support to sustain our trainer coach, program facilitator and other necessary overhead expenses. Our Director and Program Facilitator volunteers almost 50% of their time on weekly basis to help planned and executed most of our program. The Board is reassessing the organization budget for 2018/2019 fiscal year and strategizing action plan to help ensure that the organization's staffs is economically empowered in terms of living wages and sick hours.

## Summary

For our organization, all our facilitators, committees and Program Director agreed this program enhanced our participants to set a direct path towards gender equality, poverty eradication and inclusive economic growth. Thank you to Winalee Funds of the Toledo Community Foundation for making all these sessions' initiatives possible through our Women Economic Empowerment (WEE) Program. Research has proven WEE programs increase women's access to economic resources and opportunities including jobs, financial services, property, skills development and market information. Women make enormous contributions to economies, either as entrepreneurs/employees, or as unpaid caregivers in the home. As a result, it will create opportunities that are substantial as research suggests that when a woman's economic status improves, so does her family, household, and, potentially, her community. Thank you for helping us impact our participants and please know that your support truly offers hope to all women, young women and girls that our organization will continue to serve by acknowledging, celebrating and honoring their presence and value in our community.

Thank you to the Toledo Community Foundation for your continuous support through Winalee Blue grant funding.